AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A float type steam trap comprising:

a casing having a float chamber and formed with an inflow port and an outflow port communicating with said float chamber;

a float provided in said float chamber so as to be capable of being moved up and down;

a valve seat communicating with said outflow port in said float chamber; and

a valve element provided on said float, said valve element ~~which slides~~ sliding with respect to said valve seat in association with the up-and-down movement of said float so as to be able to open and close said valve seat, ~~provided on said float,~~ wherein

said valve seat is formed of stainless steel or other metals or ceramics, and said valve element is formed of carbon or stainless steel or other metals having lower wear resistance than said valve seat; and when either one of said valve seat and said valve element is formed of stainless steel or other metals, the other is

formed of ceramics or carbon ~~said valve seat and said valve element are formed of a material having different wear resistance~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to claim 1, wherein

said valve seat has a valve seat seal face provided so as to communicate with said outflow port and protrude into said float chamber, an edge of said valve seat seal face having a right angle or acute angle in cross section; and

said valve element ~~is formed of a material having lower wear resistance than said valve seat, and~~ has a valve element seal face which slides with respect to said valve seat seal face in association with the up-and-down movement of said float so as to be able to open and close said valve seat.

3. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to claim 2, wherein said valve element ~~valve seat has a valve seat seal face provided so as to communicate with said outflow port and protrude into said float chamber, an edge of said valve seat seal face having a right angle or acute angle in cross section; and said valve element is formed of a material having lower wear resistance than said valve seat, has a valve element seal face which slides with respect to said valve seat seal face in association with the up-and-down movement of said float so as to be~~

~~able to open and close said valve seat, and~~ is provided on said float so that when sliding with respect to said valve seat seal face, said valve element swayingly moves in ~~the~~ a direction perpendicular to said valve seat seal face so that said valve element seal face can be brought into contact with said edge.

4. (Currently Amended) A float type steam trap comprising:

a casing having a float chamber and formed with an inflow port and an outflow port communicating with said float chamber;

a float provided in said float chamber so as to be capable of being moved up and down;

a valve seat communicating with said outflow port in said float chamber; and

a valve element provided on said float, said valve element sliding with respect to said valve seat in association with the up-and-down movement of said float so as to be able to open and close said valve seat, ~~The float type steam trap according to claim 1, 2 or 3,~~ wherein

said valve ~~seat~~ element is formed of stainless steel or other metals or ceramics, and said valve ~~element~~ seat is formed of carbon or stainless steel or other metals having lower wear resistance than said valve ~~seat~~ element; and when

either one of said valve ~~seat~~ element and said valve ~~element~~ seat is formed of stainless steel or other metals, the other is formed of ceramics or carbon.

5. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to claim [[1]] 4, wherein

said valve seat has a valve seat seal face provided so as to communicate with said outflow port and protrude into said float chamber; and

said valve element ~~is formed of a material having higher wear resistance than said valve seat, and~~ has a valve element seal face which slides with respect to said valve seat seal face in association with the up-and-down movement of said float so as to be able to open and close said valve seat, an edge of said valve element seal face having a right angle or acute angle in cross section.

6. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to claim 5, wherein said valve element ~~seat has a valve seat seal face provided so as to communicate with said outflow port and protrude into said float chamber; and said valve element is formed of a material having higher wear resistance than said valve seat, has a valve element seal face which slides with respect to said valve seat seal face in association with the up-and-down movement of said float so as to be able to open and close said valve seat, an edge of said valve element seal face having~~

~~a right angle or acute angle in cross section, and~~ is provided on said float so that when sliding with respect to said valve seat seal face, said valve element swayingly moves in the direction perpendicular to said valve seat seal face so that said edge can be brought into contact with said valve seat seal face.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to any one of claims ~~1, 2, 3, 5 or 6~~ 1 to 6, wherein ~~the~~ seal faces of said valve seat and said valve element have a curved shape protruding from ~~the~~ a periphery of said valve seat and said valve element in ~~the~~ a direction opposed to each other, said ~~and the~~ periphery being [[is]] inclined in a tapered shape.

9. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to claim 8, further comprising ~~wherein said steam trap further comprises~~ a holder, said holder having a flow path communicating with said outflow port therein and being fixed to said casing in said float chamber, wherein

~~and~~ said valve seat ~~being~~ is provided on said holder so as to communicate with said flow path;

and said float ~~has~~ comprises a float body and a lever, said valve element being provided on said lever, and one end of said lever being fixed to said float body and ~~the other~~ a secondend of said lever being supported by said holder so as to be turnable in such a manner that said valve element slides with respect to said valve seat in association with the up-and-down movement of said float body so as to be able to open and close said valve seat.

10. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to claim 9, wherein

said holder has a plurality of valve seats on one side;

a plurality of said valve elements are provided on said lever so as to correspond to each of said valve seats; and

the ~~other~~ second end of said lever is supported by said holder so as to be turnable in such a manner that each of said valve elements slides with respect to each of said valve seats in association with the up-and-down movement of said float body so as to be able to open and close each of said valve seats.

11. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to claim 8, wherein

said valve element is provided on said float so as to be turnable around an axis perpendicular to a ~~the~~ sliding direction of said valve element, and

when said valve element closes said valve seat, the turning center of said valve element and the center of an opening of said valve seat are offset ~~shift~~ from each other.

12. (Currently Amended) The float type steam trap according to claim 8, further comprising a plug member axially aligned with said valve seat. ~~wherein said steam trap has a plug member that is replaceable with said valve seat.~~

13. (Previously Presented) The float type steam trap according to claim 9, wherein said casing is capable of being opened and closed, and said holder is fixed to said casing detachably.